

## Senate Resolution 1448

By: Senators Chapman of the 3rd, Cowser of the 46th and Hudgens of the 47th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Jack R. Mays; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Jack R. Mays was born on October 5, 1926, in Waycross, Georgia, the  
3 beloved son of Naomi Martin Mays and Howard Jasper Mays; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Mays grew up on his family's ten-acre farm in Homeland, Georgia, where  
5 he delivered newspapers, worked as a manager at the Suwanee Store in Folkston, and sold  
6 grapes that he grew on the farm to tourists on the old Dixie Highway; and

7 WHEREAS, at the age of 16, Mr. Mays worked as a telegraph operator with the Atlantic  
8 Coast Line Railroad and enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944 when he turned 17; and

9 WHEREAS, as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty, Mr. Mays completed boot  
10 camp and radio school in Bainbridge, Maryland, and was assigned to radio duty aboard a  
11 light cruiser, USS *Trenton*, which was set for the Aleutian Islands but was decommissioned  
12 a week into its voyage upon the conclusion of World War II; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Mays was reassigned to a fleet tug, USS *Choctaw*, for the remainder of his  
14 naval duty and returned home in 1946; and

15 WHEREAS, he has worked as a parts manager for Stokes Motors, opened Mays Insurance  
16 Agency with his brother, Dick, served as a public address announcer for the Charlton High  
17 School Indians football team, worked as an auditor for the Georgia Department of Revenue,  
18 published a county weekly newspaper called *The Charlton County Times*, and served as a  
19 business manager at Wesley Manor Nursing Home in Jacksonville; and

20 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Ann Elkins, in July of 1948, and  
21 they were blessed with three remarkable daughters; and

22 WHEREAS, a diligent public servant, Mr. Mays was elected to the Folkston City Council,  
23 served as Folkston's mayor, was elected to the Charlton County Commission, and was  
24 appointed executive director of the Charlton County Development Authority, where he  
25 helped develop the Okefenokee National Refuge; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Mays developed Folkston's first nursing home, has established nursing  
27 homes in Homerville and Waycross, and operated two nursing homes in Alabama; and

28 WHEREAS, he opened Folkston's first radio station, WOKF, in 1989, which he sold in 1995  
29 to acquire WATF and later sold that station to Georgia Public Broadcasters; and

30 WHEREAS, a knowledgeable historian of Folkston, Mr. Mays was honored by the Boy  
31 Scouts of America's Okefenokee Area Council for his history of service to the community;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of  
34 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 recognize Mr. Jack R. Mays for his amazing life and numerous achievements and commend  
37 his efficient, effective, and dedicated service to the people of Georgia.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Jack R. Mays.